

Action on Petitions

ACTION TAKEN ON PETITIONS

Council Members are asked to note the action taken in relation to the under mentioned petition which was presented to Council.

(i) Petition regarding the trees in the grounds of Barnwell Primary School - Presented by Councillor Anne Lawson on 27 November 2013

The petitioners had requested that action be taken over the trees in the grounds of Barnwell School. The matter was referred to the Governing Body of the School.

Following the receipt of the petition the Governing Body obtained legal advice regarding their duties and responsibilities. They then enlisted the support of an independent arboriculturalist to advise on the conditions, risks and appropriate works needed to address the six concerns raised within the petition.

On Wednesday 11th December the School procured the services of Gentoo to carry out a full survey of the site. In the petition Governors were requested to cut back and fell the problem trees. The arboriculturalist was requested to assess every tree within the grounds of Barnwell Primary School and produce a plan and report which took into consideration all of the issues raised.

A survey was carried out on Friday 13th December and the subsequent report was received on Wednesday 18th December. The results highlighted a number of maintenance issues which would be addressed across the 72 trees on the Barnwell site. It also suggested the removal of 2 trees which were in poor condition. The majority of the works needed were crown lifts which were causing overhang or light issues to the neighbouring homes.

Overall the report indicated that work was needed on 38 of the 72 trees. A quote was received from Gentoo for all of the works to be carried out as detailed in the report. The Governing Body noted that many of these tasks were not required to be carried out from a legal perspective, however as a gesture of goodwill, approval was given by Governors. The School budget would meet this cost (approximately £2,700) and Gentoo were asked to complete these works as quickly as possible.

The Governing Body have informed Councillor Lawson and the lead petitioner of the actions taken and hope that this and the subsequent works carried out satisfy all of the concerns raised in the petition, via telephone calls and by individuals who have visited the School. The Governing Body feel that by procuring independent advice they have dealt with the matter in a fair, swift and appropriate way.